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FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE PROGRAMME AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION

Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights

Report of the Secretary-General prepared in accordance with paragraph 11 of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/46

1. The Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1995/46 of 3 March 1995, entitled "Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights", welcomed the efforts of the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights to strengthen cooperation with all regional organizations and to initiate a dialogue with States and non-governmental organizations in order to develop or establish regional arrangements in the field of human rights.

2. The Commission invited States in areas where regional arrangements in the field of human rights do not yet exist to consider concluding arrangements with a view to the establishment within their respective regions of suitable regional machinery for the promotion and protection of human rights.

3. The Commission further invited the treaty bodies of the major international human rights instruments to explore ways to increase the exchange of information and cooperation with regional human rights mechanisms.

4. The Secretary-General was requested by the Commission to submit a report to it at its fifty-third session on the state of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights.

5. The attention of the Commission on Human Rights is drawn to the report of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session (A/51/480), entitled "Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights".

6. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to the report of the Secretary-General, on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian and Pacific region (E/CN.4/1997/44), submitted to the Commission at its current session.